

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 20, as follows:

Fig. 1 is a schematic view showing one example of a disc roll 10, which is prepared by stamping out annular discs from a disc member base material which is obtained by forming, into a plate form having a thickness of several millimeters, an aqueous slurry in which an inorganic fiber, an inorganic filler, a binder, etc. are compounded; fitting these plurality of disc members 12 together on a metal shaft 11 acting as a rotary shaft by insertion to form a roll-shaped laminate; and fixing the laminate on the shaft with nuts 15 or the like with the interposition of flanges 13 arranged at both ends, with some compression applied to the disc members 12 by pressurizing the whole. The peripheral surfaces of the disc members 12 function as a conveying surface.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 11, as follows:

Then, the above-mentioned disc roll 10 is integrated, for example, into a plate glass production apparatus 100 as shown in Fig. 2, and used for molding and conveyance of plate glass. This plate glass production apparatus 100 is an apparatus for producing plate glass by continuously discharging a glass melt 110 from a linearly opened slit 102 of a melting furnace 101, allowing this discharged strip-shaped glass melt 110 to flow downward and to be cooled during the falling fall to harden it. The disc rolls 10 function as a pair of stretching rolls, which hold the strip-shaped glass melt 110 therebetween to forcibly send it downwards. It is therefore preferred that the disc roll 10 has, as well as heat resistance, some degree of flexibility so as not to damage a glass surface. A disc roll containing mica particles has been known (see Patent Document 1).

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 4, as follows:

As shown in Fig. 2, a pair of the disc rolls 10 hold the strip-shaped glass melt 110 therebetween to forcibly send it downwards. However, the strip-shaped glass melt 110 is in a semisolid state, so that both ends of a conveying face tend to be conglomerated by surface tension. Accordingly, the resulting plate glass is hardened with its center portion being thin, resulting in deteriorated flatness at both ends thereof. Further, only both ends of the disc roll 10 ~~comes~~come into contact with the plate glass upon conveyance, and the plate glass breaks in some cases by stress concentration to the ~~both thick ends thereof which are thick.~~

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 16, as follows:

Further, the disc roll 10 is constantly in contact with the high-temperature strip-shaped glass melt 110. By pressing both ends thereof in a high-temperature state for ensuring the surface pressure with the glass plate, thermal deformation of the shaft 11 occurs. As a result, the conveying surface also ~~becomes to have~~has an uneven surface following the shape of the shaft 11, so that contacts with the strip-shaped glass melt 110 take place only locally, thereby causing stress concentration to a part of the plate glass to break the glass plate or to scratch the surface thereof.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 3, as follows:

There is a tendency that the area of the plate glass to be produced is being increased. With that tendency, the conveying surface of the disc roll 10 increases in width, and the shaft ~~increase~~increases in length. Accordingly, the influence by surface tension and the degree of deformation of the shaft 11 as described above also ~~become large~~increase, and it has increasingly become difficult to uniformly apply force to the plate glass.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 14, as follows:

Further, disc rolls become liable to wear out as flexibility is imparted thereto, resulting in a shortened life thereof. Further, in liquid crystal displays and plasma displays, quality requirements to plate glass are particularly severe, and it becomes ~~an~~ a significant problem to prevent contamination of the surface thereof caused by abrasion powder (powder omission) from the disc roll. The disc roll in which importance is attached to flexibility is liable to wear out, so that the powder omission is liable to occur, which tends to result in a reduced yield.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 24, as follows:

In order to impart flexibility to the disc roll, it is also possible to ~~take a measure of reducing-reduce~~ the pressure applied at the time when the disc members 12 are loaded on the shaft 11 and compressed from both ends, to thereby lower the compressed density. However, ~~it~~ such reduced pressure adversely affects the durability of the roll, resulting in a shortened roll life.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 22, as follows:

Then, annular disc members 12 are stamped out from the disc member base material, and these plurality of disc members 12 are fitted together on a rotary shaft 11 made of metal (for example, made of iron) by insertion to form a roll-shaped laminate. Then, they are fixed with nuts 15 or the like with the interposition of flanges 13 arranged at both ends, with some compression applied from both ends to the disc members 12 ~~by pressurizing the whole~~. Then, peripheral surfaces of the disc members 12 are ground so as to give a predetermined roll diameter, thereby obtaining a disc roll 10.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 9, as follows:

The disc roll of the second invention may have the same structure as that of a conventional disc roll, and, for example, the disc roll 10 shown in Fig. 1 can be cited. In the

second invention, the disc member 12 contains an inorganic fiber, mica and a clay ~~containing~~ having a content of particle components that have a particle size of 5 μm or larger of not higher than 30% by weight based on the total weight of the clay.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 20, as follows:

Then, annular disc members 12 are stamped out from the disc member base material, and these plurality of disc members 12 are fitted together on a rotary shaft 11 made of metal (for example, made of iron) by insertion to form a roll-shaped laminate. Then, they are fixed with nuts 15 or the like with the interposition of flanges 13 arranged at both ends, with some compression applied from both ends to the disc members 12 ~~by pressurizing the whole~~. Then, the peripheral surfaces of the disc members 12 are ground so as to give a predetermined roll diameter, thereby obtaining the disc roll 10.